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opinions concerning which, to date, are fairly represented in the sub-joined newspaper cutting.

Professor Ogata, who is chiefly responsible for the identification of the bacilli in this investigation, ranks as one of the most competent, cautious, and reliable of Japanese bacteriologists. Every precaution within the power of the Government is being taken, both in Tokyo and the closely neighboring Yokohama, and, so far, there has not appeared a single even suspicious human case of the plague, at any time, in Tokyo, nor, since the date of my last report, May 27, in any portion of Japan proper. The epidemic continues, however, to rage in Formosa's affected districts, at the rate of from 30 to 50 per diem.

Respectfully,

STUART ELDRIDGE.

*Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*

The SURGEON GENERAL,

*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.*

*The plague scare in Tokyo—The authorities take strict precautions.*

[Japanese Herald, May 29, 1901.]

As previously announced, 5 pest-infected rats have been discovered in Tokyo. This discovery has been effected by the faculty of the medical college of the Tokyo Imperial University, who, on dissecting 5 dead rats, discovered the dreaded bacilli in the blood taken from the rodents. These rats were found in storehouses, etc., belonging to the university. On receiving a warning from the university, the metropolitan police immediately issued a notice to citizens to carry out the thorough cleaning of their houses, and also to capture any rats that might be found, as a precaution against the possible outbreak of the fearful disease. The metropolitan journals unanimously advise the citizens of the capital to take every possible sanitary measure, and warn them not to neglect to inform the authorities of any trace of the disease, so that the pest germs may be stamped out. When the university doctors first entertained suspicion of the possible existence of pest bacilli in the 5 rats, they at once carried out the necessary examination. As the result of this, the discovery of the pest bacilli was confirmed by yesterday morning. The storehouses and other rooms in which the rats were discovered were quickly disinfected. The sanitary officials in the capital have decided to take preventive measures in order to nip the germination of the disease in the bud. The medical faculty of the Imperial University are greatly exercised over the discovery of this unpleasant fact and consider it advisable to burn down all buildings (in the university compound?) in which any pest-infected rats were found. The people in the university hospitals have been subjected to strict medical treatment, and kitchen rooms, etc., have been removed elsewhere, and extraordinary precautionary measures are being taken. The authorities could not understand how the pest bacilli had invaded the university compound. If the bacilli had been discovered in station warehouses, etc., it could easily be understood that they had been imported from outside, but as the unpleasant traces were discovered in the storehouses and kitchen rooms of the university hospitals, it is feared that they may have been germinated in the place of their discovery. The university doctors are pursuing the necessary investigations on this point, which is expected to be made clear before long. The authorities have decided to enforce a thorough city cleaning, and it is possible that the whole ward of Hongo will be segregated from other parts of the capital in order to prevent the outbreak of the disease. Even if such a drastic measure is not taken, very elaborate sanitary precautions will be adopted in a few days.

#### MEXICO.

*Report from Ciudad Juarez—Governmental aid to sanitation of seaport cities.*

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 12, 1901.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith, for the information of the Surgeon-General of the Marine-Hospital Service, copy of an unnumbered dispatch, dated the 28th ultimo, with its inclosure, from the consul of the United States at Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, in which he

transmits a newspaper extract relative to the approval by the Chamber of Deputies of that Republic of a measure to aid sanitary works on the coast.

Respectfully,

DAVID J. HILL,  
*Acting Secretary.*

HON. SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

[Inclosure.]

CIUDAD JUAREZ, MEXICO, *May 28, 1901.*

SIR: I have the honor to send herewith, for the information of the Department, a clipping from the Mexican Herald of recent date, which recites the terms of an important measure approved by the Chamber of Deputies of the Mexican Republic to aid sanitary works on the coast.

Respectfully,

CHARLES M. KINDRICK,  
*United States Consul.*

[Inclosure.—From Mexican Herald.]

"An important bill looking to the sanitary improvement of some of the Republic's chief ports was approved yesterday afternoon in the Chamber of Deputies.

"The bill was presented by the finance department, with a preamble explaining it. Mr. Limantour says that the important work done or being done by the Government at the ports of Vera Cruz, Tampico, Manzanillo, Coatzacoalcas, and Salina Cruz requires to be supplemented by improvements of a sanitary character in order that the ports may become real emporiums of traffic. This they can never become while they are unhealthy. One of the chief necessities is the introduction of good drinking water in abundant quantity.

"Until sanitary requirements are satisfied, these ports, whatever may be the advantages which they afford to shipping, can never acquire real importance, as they will always be in danger of being quarantined against, or having, in self-protection, to quarantine against other ports. All these things imply a hindrance to trade.

"Mexico's constitution does not permit the Federal Government to undertake works of a purely local character at the ports, its functions being confined to matters in which the federation is clearly and directly interested. On the other hand, the local authorities, whether State or municipal, are not always in the pecuniary position which would enable them to carry out the necessary works, or to establish the services demanded by the principles of hygiene, which are regarded as a necessity in modern cities.

"It is indispensable," says Mr. Limantour, "to devise means for overcoming these difficulties, and to carry out in our principal ports such works as will convert them in a few years into safe and agreeable places of residence.

"The president of the Republic considers that these objects may be attained by empowering the executive of the union to enter into agreements which shall leave the local authorities completely free to make contracts for the execution of the works to which reference has been made, in such form and with such persons as they may deem suitable, but offering the stimulus of franchises, exemptions, and pecuniary aid, in consideration of the guarantees afforded for the proper execution of the work and certain direct compensations, such as that of drinking water, which clearly redounds to the credit of the port services.

"The supreme magistrate trusts that the Chambers will be pleased to give particular attention to this bill of which he awaits the approbation in order to conclude certain combinations and arrangements now pending, and of which the object is to improve the sanitary conditions of Vera Cruz and Tampico."

The bill is as follows:

"In order to encourage the sanitation of ports open to ocean trade and of frontier towns where custom houses for importations are situated, the executive is empowered to afford the aid of the Federal Government and with that end in view to enter into contracts and to grant franchises subject to the following conditions:

"First. The 1.50 per cent on import duties which is collected for the benefit of the city councils as provided by the decree of June 4, 1896, and section III, article 7, of the customs regulations now in force, may be increased to 2 per cent for as long a time as may be necessary in order to effect the payment of the cost of the sanitation works or the redemption of the debt that may be contracted for said work.

"Second. The full proceeds of the 2 per cent referred to in the foregoing clause or at least four-fifths of those proceeds shall be devoted to the payment of the works and shall be collected by the Federal executive in order to be delivered directly to the contractors as provided by their several contracts.

"Third. Stipulations will be made with the proper parties to the effect that, with a

view to meeting the needs of the Federal services located in the ports and especially with a view to providing vessels that anchor therein with water, the federation shall always have a right to receive and distribute a given or proportional quantity of the drinking water which is to be supplied to the towns through the execution of the sanitation works that may be undertaken.

"Fourth. As a compensation for the benefit which the Federal Government is to receive by virtue of the foregoing clause or for any other benefit of a clear and direct character secured by the agreement with the State governments, the Federal executive may grant a pecuniary subsidy destined exclusively to meet the cost of the works contemplated, or the interest on said cost, provided that the total amount of said subsidy shall not exceed the sums devoted to the same object by the State government and the several city councils

"Fifth. Machinery and material from abroad destined exclusively for the works in question shall enjoy the exemptions and franchises granted by Clause XXXIV of the contract for the port works of Vera Cruz, dated April 26, 1895. In like manner the sanitation work to be executed shall get the benefit of the franchises and exemptions granted by Clause III of the same contract, subject, however, to the rules to be laid down by the department of finance for the full protection of fiscal interests.

"Sixth. In order that the executive may make use of the powers conferred by the present decree, it is absolutely necessary that the following conditions be present:

"I. That, subject to the contract entered into, the plans for the sanitary works, as well as all the stipulations of the contract for their execution, shall be submitted for approval to the departments of communications and public works and of finance.

"II. That under the same contract the inspection and acceptance of the works shall appertain to the department of communications.

"III. That the pecuniary obligations contracted by the federation shall not be indefinite either in duration or amount.

"IV. That the federation shall be exonerated from any responsibility other than such as flows directly and legally from the obligations which it may assume by virtue of the rules laid down in the present authorization.

"V. That the decree with respect to the increase of the municipal dues from 1.50 to 2 per cent shall only be issued when all the contracts and arrangements assuring the execution of the works shall have been signed and registered."

*Report from Progreso—Smallpox decreasing at Merida.*

PROGRESO, MEXICO, June 9, 1901.

SIR: I have the honor to make the following report for the week ended June 8, 1901:

From all causes there were reported 9 deaths, 2 being from malarial fever. There were no cases or deaths reported from contagious diseases.

There has been a marked improvement in the smallpox epidemic in Merida, only 4 or 5 deaths being reported for the week. A few weeks ago that number were reported daily.

Nothing of interest has occurred among the shipping or outgoing passengers.

Respectfully,

S. H. HODGSON,  
*Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*

The SURGEON-GENERAL,  
*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.*

*Report from Merida—Yellow fever present.*

[Telegram.]

MOBILE, ALA., June 18, 1901.

Medical agent Gay reports 1 death from yellow fever at Merida, Yucatan.

GOLDTHWAIT.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,  
*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.*